



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **Census Bureau**

#### **Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Census Bureau.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before (insert 60 days after publication).

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [dHynek@doc.gov](mailto:dHynek@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Chris Savage, U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Construction Division, 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Room 7K071, Washington, DC 20233-6913, (301) 763-4834 or via the Internet at [john.c.savage@census.gov](mailto:john.c.savage@census.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

### **I. Abstract**

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request an extension of the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) survey. The Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) survey requests data from domestic manufacturers on form M-3 (SD), which will be mailed at the end of each month. Data requested are shipments, new orders, unfilled orders, total inventory, materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods. It is currently the only survey that provides broad-based monthly statistical data on the economic conditions in the domestic manufacturing sector.

The M3 survey is designed to measure current industrial activity and to provide an indication of future production commitments. The value of shipments measures the value of goods delivered during the month by domestic manufacturers. Estimates of new orders serve as an indicator of future production commitments and represent the current sales value of new orders received during the month, net of cancellations. Substantial accumulation or depletion of unfilled orders measures excess or deficient demand for manufactured products. The level of inventories, especially in relation to shipments, is frequently used to monitor the business cycle.

We do not plan any changes to the M-3 (SD) form. The estimated total annual burden hours will remain 17,200 due to no increase in the number of respondents.

## **II. Method of Collection**

Respondents submit data on form M-3 (SD) via mail, facsimile machine, or via the Internet. Analysts call respondents who usually report, to obtain data in time for preparing the monthly estimates.

## **III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0607-0008.

*Form Number:* M-3 (SD). You can obtain information on the proposed content at this website: <http://www.census.gov/mcd/clearance>

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses, large and small, or other for profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,300.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 17,200.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* \$510,152.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C. Sections 131 and 182.

#### **IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 7, 2011

**Glenna Mickelson,**

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

(FR Doc. 11-XXXX; Filed XX-XX-11; 8:45 a.m.)

**BILLING CODE: 3510-07-P.**

**[FR Doc. 2011-29233 Filed 11/10/2011 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/14/2011]**